



Kentucky Personnel Cabinet Office of the Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Crystal Pryor
502-517-6046**

**Robin Hartman
502-564-6552**

2011 Governor's Ambassador Awards recipients named

Oct. 3-Oct. 9 proclaimed Kentucky Public Service Recognition Week

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 6, 2011) — An elite group of Kentucky's public servants were recognized today at the annual Governor's Ambassador Awards ceremony in Frankfort. Part of Kentucky Public Service Recognition Week, held this year Oct. 3-9, the awards were presented by First Lady Jane Beshear.

"There are hundreds of stories that tell how government programs have improved people's lives," Mrs. Beshear said. "But it is truly the people behind the programs—our valued public employees—that are the key to good government. Their work is never-ending, and I am honored to be able to recognize them for their outstanding efforts."

Created in October 2008, the awards program was established to highlight stories of employees who have positively impacted the lives of their co-workers, customers and community. Nominations were accepted throughout the year in six categories: customer service, courage, leadership, professional achievement, teamwork, and community service or volunteerism. More than 100 nominations were submitted, involving more than 230 employees.

The 2011 award recipients include:

Customer Service: Sandra Lovett, Adult Protection Worker,
Cabinet for Health & Family Services

Teamwork: Division of Technology Services, Personnel Cabinet

Community Service or Volunteerism: Stacie Jones, Kinship Care Coordinator,
Cabinet for Health & Family Services

Leadership: Sharon D. White, Administrative Assistant,
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Education & Workforce Development Cabinet

Courage: Ronnie Day, Executive Director,
Kentucky Fire Commission/Volunteer Fire Fighters

Professional Achievement: Robert Gates, KY Folklife Program Director,
KY Historical Society, Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet

All nominations were reviewed by a selection committee, and three finalists were chosen in each category. Mrs. Beshear and Personnel Cabinet Secretary Tim Longmeyer serve as co-chairs of the selection committee. Gov. Steve Beshear selected the overall winners in each

category. All names were removed from the submissions to ensure fairness and anonymity.

“More than 30,000 employees are currently serving at the state level alone, devoting their life’s work to serve the people of this Commonwealth,” Secretary Longmeyer said. “Among them, we have steadfast examples of commitment, compassion, dedication to service, objective accountability and diverse leadership. It is with that reality in mind that the Governor’s Ambassador Award was created, and we set aside this time to thank our public servants for all that they do.”

All nominees were invited to attend today’s ceremony. Award recipients will be honored by having a personalized engraved brick placed along Ambassador Avenue outside the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. To learn more about this year’s award recipients, visit <http://personnel.ky.gov/emprel/GovernorsAmbassadorAward>.

For additional information regarding Kentucky Public Employee Recognition Week and the Governor’s Ambassador Award Program visit the Personnel Cabinet’s website, <http://personnel.ky.gov>.

###